

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 A-01 CPR-02 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

REF: CAIRO 995; STATE 44797

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION CONTAINED STATE 44797 AND TEXT OF VIENNA CONVENTION FORWARDED WITH STATE A2027. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ENDEAVORING TO PIECE TOGETHER OVERALL P&I PICTURE USING ITS CORPORATE MEMORY IN VIEW DESTRUCTION OF FILES AND LENGTH OF TIME THAT HAS PASSED SINCE 1967. BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO MOVE RAPIDLY IN REESTABLISHING IF POSSIBLE PRE-1967 P&I SITUATION, IN VIEW OF CASES COMING UP SHORTLY REGARDING ENTRY OF VEHICLES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF PERSONNEL NOW AT POST, AS WELL AS SALE OF VEHICLES OF OTHERS DEPARTING.

2. COMPARISON OF PRE-JUNE 1967 AND POST-1967 PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES:

(A) IMPORTATION OF OFFICIAL VEHICLES

PRE-1967 -- OFFICIAL VEHICLES COULD BE IMPORTED DUTY FREE AND SOLD DUTY FREE. AFTER 1967 -- VEHICLES COULD BE IMPORTED DUTY FREE, BUT WHEN SOLD, CUSTOMS FEES HAD TO BE PAID AND AMOUNT DEPOSITED IN BLOCKED ACCOUNT.

(B) IMPORTATION OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

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PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL COULD IMPORT ONE (1)

VEHICLE DUTY FREE AND SELL IT DUTY FREE AT ANY TIME WHEN PERMANENTLY TRANSFERRED. THEY COULD ALSO IMPORT A SCOOTER DUTY FREE AND SELL IT DUTY FREE. STAFF PERSONNEL COULD IMPORT ONE (1) USED VEHICLE DUTY FREE AND SELL IT UPON PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS FEES. LATTER ASSED AT DEPRECIATED VALUE OF VEHICLE. AFTER 1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL COULD IMPORT ONE (1) VEHICLE DUTY FREE AND SELL IT ONLY AFTER ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF ENTRY UPON PAYMENT OF DUTY BY PURCHASER AND AMOUNT DEPOSITED IN BLOCKED ACCOUNT. STAFF COULD IMPORT ONE (1) VEHICLE DUTY FREE AND SELL IT TO PERSON WITH DUTY FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGE. OTHERWISE, VEHICLE HAD TO BE EXPORTED UPON COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENT.

(C) ROAD TAXES

PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL WERE EXEMPTED. STAFF WERE EXEMPTED. AFTER 1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL WERE EXEMPTED. STAFF WERE NOT EXEMPTED.

(D) GASOLINE TAXES

PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL WERE EXEMPTED BY EXCISE TAXES. STAFF WERE NOT, RPT NOT, EXEMPTED. AFTER 1967 -- NO CHANGE.

(3) DRIVING TESTS AND LICENSES

PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL WITH INT'S LICENSE EXEMPTED FROM TEST AND TRAFFIC DUES. STAFF WITH INT'L LICENSE EXEMPTED FROM TEST, BUT HAD TO PAY TRAFFIC DUES. AFTER 1967 -- NO CHANGE.

(F) HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ALLOWED IMPORTATION OF HHE DUTY FREE WITHOUT INSPECTION. STAFF ALLOWED IMPORTATION DUTY FREE, BUT WITH INSPECTION. THERE WAS ALSO DEADLINE OF SIX MONTHS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR STAFF. AFTER 1967 -- DIPLOMATIC ALLOWED IMPORTATION DUTY FREE WITHOUT INSPECTION, BUT PRESENTATION OF AN INVENTORY WAS REQUIRED. STAFF ALLOWED IMPORTATION DUTY FREE WITH CUSTOMS INSPECTION, PRESENTATION OF INVENTORY LIST AND SIX MONTHS'S DEADLINE FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY.

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(G) AIR FREIGHT

PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC ALLOWED DUTY FREE ENTRY. STAFF ALSO ALLOWED DUTY FREE ENTRY. AFTER 1967 -- DIPLOMATIC ALLOWED DUTY FREE ENTRY. STAFF ALLOWED DUTY FREE ENTRY, BUT WITH INSPECTION.

(H) SALE OF IMPORTED GOODS

PRE-1967 -- DIPLOMATIC AND STAFF PERSONNEL WERE NOT

ALLOWED SELL ANY IMPORTED GOODS. AFTER 1967 -- NO CHANGE.

3. REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE ABOVE CHANGES MAY SIMPLY HAVE RESULTED FROM OVERALL ALTERATION IN P&I FOR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY OVER THE YEARS. WE ARE DISCUSSING P&I WITH OTHER EMBASSIES, BUT HAVE NOT OBTAINED A CLEAR PICTURE TO DATE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER WITH THEM.

4. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED SUBJECT OF P&I EARLIER TO FONMIN FAHMY SAYING WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO RETURNING TO STATUS ENJOYED PRIOR TO INTERRUPTION OF RELATIONS. HE SEEMED TO TAKE THIS FOR GRANTED AS BEING NATURAL COURSE OF EVENTS. MOST RECENTLY, AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OLAMA, WHO COMMENTED HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING DATA ON P&I EXTENDED TO EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THIS MATERIAL AS WELL AS COMMENTS ON PARA 2 SO THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD PROMPTLY ON THIS MATTER.
EILTS

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